

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE:** National Environmental Policy Act; Environmental Assessment for the NASA White Sands Test Facility 300 Area Altitude Capability Demolition Project

**AGENCY:** NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)

**ACTION:** Finding of no significant impact

**SUMMARY:** Based upon the analyses and evaluations in the environmental assessment, it is concluded that an environmental impact statement is not required. NASA proposes to significantly modify the propulsion testing capability within the 300 Area. The 300 Area is a highly specialized rocket and spacecraft engine propulsion testing area that can provide engine testing at both altitude and ambient conditions. Since 2015, the altitude testing capability was temporarily removed from service and the facilities were placed into a non-active status. NASA proposes to demolish, repair, and potentially replace several properties and related infrastructure within the footprint of the 300 Area which would remove all altitude testing capabilities and convert the area to an ambient-only testing capability. Additionally, portions of the facilities and equipment may be reconditioned and consolidated within the 400 Area propulsion test capability. One reasonable alternative is considered, a no-action alternative.

**DATE:** June 10, 2020

**ADDRESS:** An electronic copy of the environmental assessment is available at:  
[https://www.nasa.gov/centers/wstf/about\\_us/environmental\\_management/public\\_reading\\_room/nepa.html](https://www.nasa.gov/centers/wstf/about_us/environmental_management/public_reading_room/nepa.html).  
A copy of the assessment can be mailed upon request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy J. Davis  
NASA Environmental Office Chief  
NASA White Sands Test Facility  
575.524.5024  
Fax: 575.524.5798  
Email: [timothy.j.davis@nasa.gov](mailto:timothy.j.davis@nasa.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** The primary impacts of this demolition and construction project would be minimal due to its location within a highly industrial propulsion test area. Very minimal impacts to the localized and surrounding environment would include minor construction dust impacting area-specific air quality, temporary high-noise activities consistent with major construction activities, and the generation and management of hazardous materials including potentially hazardous waste. The only environmental impact of concern identified by this analysis is the adverse effect to a historic district resulting from the demolition of several of its contributing properties. These adverse effects specific to the historic district would be effectively mitigated through consultations, public involvement, and mitigation efforts that would document and preserve the history of these facilities. There would also be some relatively minor positive effects due to energy efficiencies, greenhouse gas reductions, and recycling opportunities. In

summary, the minor environmental impacts of this project, coupled with mitigation efforts for the impacts to the historic district, when offset by several minor positive benefits do not represent any cumulative effects that would rise to a level of concern while modifying the 300 Area altitude test capability.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert M. Cort  
Manager, White Sands Test Facility